

Michael F. Easley  
Governor



State of North Carolina  
Office of the Governor

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**REPORT SHOWS NORTH CAROLINA LEADING THE NATION IN  
CLOSING THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP**

**RALEIGH**—North Carolina is a national leader in student achievement gains by African-Americans, Latinos, and white students on national exams according to a report released last week by the Washington, DC-based The Education Trust. The report, *Education Watch*, details student achievement and other indicators of student performance in the 50 states.

In 2001, the National Education Goals reported that North Carolina lead the nation in progress in 4<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade math in the decade of the 1990s. This most recent report shows that not only did North Carolina lead the nation in progress overall, but its African-American and Latino 4<sup>th</sup> grade students were making more gains in math than their peers in all other states and were among the nation's leaders in gains in reading.

North Carolina ranked first in the nation in gains for African-American, Latino, and white students on both the 4<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade NAEP (National Assessment of Educational Progress) math exams. On the 4<sup>th</sup> grade reading exam, North Carolina was tied for third among African-Americans and fourth in gains for Latinos. North Carolina ranked second in gains among Latinos on the 8<sup>th</sup> grade science assessment.

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"This is good news for North Carolina," said Gov. Mike Easley. "Our steadfast commitment to education is paying off. Eliminating the achievement gap in our schools is critical to building strong communities and a strong economy.

"We must stay the course and continue to invest in proven strategies for improving student performance. These results show that this is not the time to backtrack. We must protect education funding and pass a budget that allows North Carolina to continue improving student achievement."

The Education Trust's rankings on achievement gains on National Assessment for Educational Progress exams were based on state participation on math, reading, and science tests between 1990 and 2000. For more information, go to [www.edtrust.org](http://www.edtrust.org).

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